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Y E A R I N R E V I E W





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# **Newark: Bright Lights, Big City**

## ***A Message from Mayor Sharpe James***



*Mayor Sharpe James*

**A**s one of America's foremost manufacturing cities a century ago, Newark's skyline was dotted with smokestacks and ablaze with the furnaces of industry. Today we are in the midst of a remarkable transition that has our city glowing with a different kind of bright light. Through the City of Newark's development efforts and partnerships with the private sector, the new Newark is shining with the gleam of busy office towers, newly developed residential areas and shopping plazas, unique cultural attractions and high-tech industries.

Most of all, Newark is lit up with hope as growing job and economic opportunities offer our residents the chance to build a better future for themselves and their families.

A key to building that future – improving the quality of life for the citizens of New Jersey's largest city – rests with city government. Over the past year the city's municipal agencies have provided a wide variety of programs and services that enrich the lives of many.

An increased police presence and new crime-fighting strategies helped us take great strides toward making Newark a safer city in 1996. Vigorous beautification efforts allowed us to create a more attractive living environment. Community health concerns were proactively addressed, as were the social and recreational needs of our youth and senior citizens. More than 2,500 young people got valuable job experience through our Summer Youth Employment Training Program. A program called Just One was launched to promote volunteerism in our community. Three thousand new private-sector jobs were created. And improvements to the city's infrastructure were made to pave the way for future growth.

In recalling our successes of the past year, we must draw on our sense of accomplishment to rededicate ourselves to further improving the City of Newark. As we continue to turn on the bright lights that signal Newark's growth and steadily improve essential services for the residents of the big city, we continue our march toward a better tomorrow.



*A view of Newark. The city's evolving skyline reflects the rapid progress being made in New Jersey's largest city.*

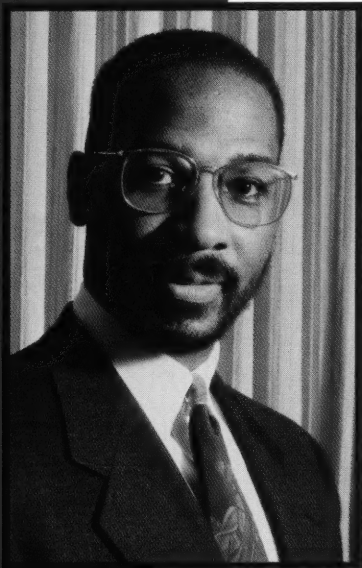
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# **Partnering for Progress**

## ***A Message from Business Administrator Glenn A. Grant***



*Glenn A. Grant*

**I**n addition to providing the public with vital services that impact the quality of life in our city, one of the foremost missions of municipal government in Newark is fostering growth that will improve that quality of life by creating jobs, economic opportunities and affordable housing. At the same time, we bear the responsibility of using limited resources wisely, maximizing their effect and minimizing unprofitable investments of time and dollars.

Sustained development and fiscal responsibility are not incompatible goals in Newark and the dual pursuit of both has been made possible by partnerships between the city and public and private sector organizations. These partnerships have helped transform limited assets borne by individual players into a wealth of resources that can be devoted to joint projects — economic, social and educational initiatives — with far-reaching impact on the local community.

Through its alliances, the City of Newark, under the leadership of Mayor Sharpe James, has, over the past year, advanced a number of important projects. These include the University Heights Science Park (in conjunction with Newark's Council on Higher Education); the South Ward Industrial Park (with the South Ward Neighborhood Partnership); community cleanup efforts (with numerous neighborhood groups); housing initiatives (with the Newark Housing Authority and community organizations) and education programs (with the Newark school system).

In the coming years, the City of Newark will continue to serve as a facilitator in fostering partnerships promoting local growth. In doing so, we look forward to maintaining a preeminent role as a guiding force for the development of our city's human, social, physical and economic potential.



# A Year of Development

**D**rive through Newark on any night and you will see the many bright lights twinkling near the dazzling institutions that have helped Newark reinvent itself as New Jersey's cultural mecca. They include the Newark Museum, the Newark Public Library, the landmark Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and the New Jersey Historical Society. The brightest of all is the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), a sprawling \$180 million complex that last year neared completion on a hill overlooking the Passaic River waterfront. When it opens in the fall of 1997, the center will host a varied menu of events featuring classical music, dance, jazz, multicultural programs, theater and popular music — and it will serve as a magnet for economic activity and investment dollars. Visitors to NJPAC will have secure parking at a 1,200-car facility currently under renovation beneath nearby Military Park.

Development around NJPAC will be complemented by a transformation of the waterfront itself. Planning work continued in 1996 on the Joseph P. Minish waterfront park and historic area project, which will create a two-mile walkway of landscaped plazas and green spaces along the Passaic. The park will, in a sense, reconnect the city to its roots by once again making the waterway a center of city life as it was during Newark's proud industrial past.

Culture wasn't the only thing Newark had going for it in 1996.

The city unveiled plans for a 6,000-seat Sportsplex that will host community events, youth sports and a minor league baseball team in the new Atlantic League. The project will be a joint venture between the city and Essex County. Former New York Yankee and Newark native Rick Cerone will



*Construction on the New Jersey Performing Arts Center is quickly nearing completion.*

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also be involved as owner of the team, which will be called the Bears after the great Yankee farm team that played in the city into the 1950s.

The transportation infrastructure is being upgraded as the Newark-Elizabeth rail link entered the final phase prior to construction. The light-rail line will connect Broad Street Station, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Penn Station (which is experiencing a multimillion dollar facelift), Newark International Airport and the City of Elizabeth, Newark's neighbor to the south.

Plans are being drawn to take advantage of Newark's transportation assets, its strategic location and international airport access by building a trade/convention center. A major accounting firm has been retained to perform a market study for the major meeting and hospitality facility while the Newark Economic Development Corporation was assigned to plan and manage the effort. It is estimated that such a site would generate 2,000 jobs for residents and tax revenues of \$250 million over 10 years.

Commercial and retail developments also expanded in 1996. Site acquisition was completed for the South Ward Industrial Park, a 100,000-square-foot facility expected to create 300 jobs. The complex, which will feature a mix of light industries, is at the hub of a large-scale renewal effort by the South Ward Neighborhood Partnership, a coalition between the City of Newark, Public Service Electric and Gas, Newark Economic Development Corporation and 300 other partners. And throughout the city new stores opened, including the Clinton Avenue shopping plaza that includes a Rite Aid pharmacy – one of several that have set up shop here since the chain made a commitment to establishing a presence in the Newark market.



*Artist's sketch of the South Ward Industrial Park as it will appear when construction is completed in the fall of 1998.*

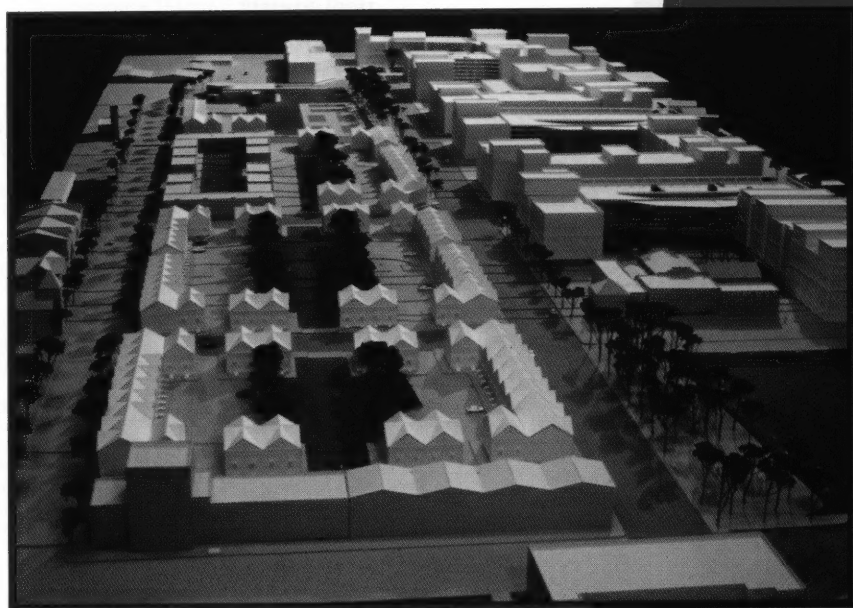
## ***An Expanding Educational Community***

Newark is a college town and home to more than 40,000 students who attend the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Rutgers University, Seton Hall School of Law, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and Essex County College (ECC). Last year saw developments that will further expand that learning community. Rutgers started work on a new state-of-the-art law school that will result in the largest academic building ever erected by the university. And growth came to a unique joint venture between NJIT, Rutgers, UMDNJ, ECC, the City of Newark and the community – the University Heights Science Park.

The science park is a 50-acre development that will serve as a catalyst for urban revitalization by attracting high-technology companies that transfer university research to practical applications. Plans call for the project to create an estimated 3,000 jobs and add over \$4 million to Newark's real estate base.

In 1996, two giant steps were taken with the opening of two cornerstone buildings — the Council for Higher Education in Newark (CHEN) building and the NJIT Enterprise Development Center II.

The 165,000-square-foot CHEN building includes the science park's offices and laboratories for testing biomaterials and medical technology prior to commercial application. The NJIT Enterprise Development Center II is a 30,000-square-foot business incubator that will house 17 technology start-up companies and a 100-child day care center for park tenants and area residents. Development Center II joins an existing incubator housing 35 technology start-up companies. Together, they make Newark home to the largest concentration of technology start-up companies in New Jersey.



*An architect's rendering of the University Heights Science Park shows a mixed used city-within-a-city featuring businesses, homes and retail establishments.*

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The park's design also calls for neighborhood housing, day care centers, retail businesses and a new state-of-the-art science and technology high school. Last year a prominent educational administrator was selected as the project's director and an agreement was negotiated with the Newark Public Schools to include it in its long-range facilities plan.

### ***Revitalizing Newark's Wards***

Exciting new developments were evident last year in Newark's wards — home to cozy shopping strips, elegant town houses, fine Spanish and Portuguese restaurants, tree-lined family neighborhoods and soaring apartment towers.

First, the city's Department of Development assisted in the construction and rehabilitation of 190 units of affordable housing — 130 rentals and 60 for sale — located throughout the city. An additional 692 units of new housing — 292 rentals and 400 for sale — were under construction as the year came to a close. Major developments completed included the rehabilitation of town-homes at historic St. James Common, detached homes at Smyrna/Horizon Village and the La Casa de Don Pedro/Davenport Project, and the Ebon Square apartment building. These efforts contributed to the fact that the percentage of Newarkers who own their own homes — an important factor in neighborhood stability — reached an all-time high.

The Newark community was a vital partner in municipal efforts to spur development in the city's wards. The Department of Development awarded Community Development Block Grants totaling more than \$800,000 to 16 grassroots organizations. The funds were used for housing development and rehabilitation or refurbishment of multipurpose recreation and operational facilities providing recreation, health services, day care and social services for children and senior citizens.

The city took steps in 1996 to improve economic opportunities for existing businesses and provide a more appealing shopping environment for residents. Through the



*Families are moving into new homes throughout the city as residential development continues to rise.*

Commercial Corridor Physical Improvement Program, the city enrolled 29 businesses in a facade improvement program in which \$5,000 grants were provided to help shopkeepers renovate their storefronts.

The Special Corridor Facade Improvement Program targeted a 15-block stretch of South Orange Avenue for an intensive upgrade aimed at boosting declining retail sales volume. A quarter of a million dollars was earmarked for the installation of brightly colored awnings on commercial storefront properties in an effort to create a feeling of uniformity and identity to the neighborhood, historically one of Newark's premier shopping areas. More than 70 percent of the businesses in the area participated in the project, which received favorable reviews from local residents.

The city also worked with downtown businesspeople, the Newark office of the Regional Plan Association and a private contractor to conduct preliminary planning for a Special Improvement District in the heart of the city's traditional central business district. Members of the proposed district and the city would pool resources to provide services aimed at enhancing the area for shoppers and visitors to its various attractions. Planning committees are focusing on visual improvements, including signage, lighting and traffic flow, as well as safety upgrades ranging from the hiring of off-duty police to the placement of community service representatives that would also provide information.

These efforts on behalf of Newark's merchants were supplemented in 1996 by the establishment of a Small Business Advisory Council. The body will provide counsel to municipal government on improvement programs and bring the concerns of this vital sector directly to city leaders.

The city took steps in 1996 to improve economic opportunities for existing businesses and provide a more appealing shopping environment for residents.

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## ***A Year of Fiscal Responsibility***

**I**n carrying out its mission of promoting growth and providing essential municipal services, the City of Newark seeks to maximize its effectiveness by maximizing resources. To achieve this all-important end, a number of measures were taken in 1996 to improve efficiency and increase revenues from a variety of sources. The success of these efforts was evident as the city maintained its bond rating while most other cities in the region experienced decreases.

Aggressive grant reimbursement procedures implemented by the Department of Finance resulted in a 16 percent increase in revenue over 1995. An end-of-year tax amnesty program produced a 70 percent increase in revenue for the December collection period and helped the city realize \$11.7 million in additional revenue over the previous year.

Wise investment of city funds raised \$6.3 million while a tax sale resulted in another \$3.5 million in revenue. These monies joined more than \$67.6 million in tax abatement and special tax revenues collected by the Department of Finance. Other city departments joined the effort as well. The Department of Development helped generate \$3.3 million in real estate revenue — \$2.2 million through auction and redevelopment sales and \$1.1 million in rental income on city-owned properties. Development also increased payoffs on small-business loans by 40 percent over 1995. And the Department of Water and Sewer Utilities generated \$4 million through the sale of water from its watersheds to eight area municipalities. Better management of invoices from city vendors helped minimize finance charges incurred by late payment. An extensive tracking system implemented by the



*The sale of water from Newark's Pequannock Watershed, seen here from the Clinton Reservoir Dam, is a valuable source of revenue for the city.*

Department of Finance improved internal controls, ensured timely payment and provided a 30-day period to process vouchers. A system was also developed to ensure that goods and services contracted by the city were satisfactorily received. It created an independent three-way match of vendor invoices, receiver confirmation and payment authorization.

And in keeping with its philosophy of doing more with less, the City of Newark achieved a 15 percent reduction in nonuniformed municipal personnel. The cut was achieved through attrition and consolidation — without layoffs and without affecting the delivery of city services.

A number of measures were taken in 1996 to improve efficiency and increase revenues from a variety of sources.

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## **A Year of Better Health**

**L** eading 1996's effort to improve the quality of life for Newark residents was the Department of Health and Human Services, which provides a broad array of services designed to protect and promote the health, welfare and leisure life of Newark residents.

### ***Protecting the Public From Lead***

In one of the year's major initiatives, the Department of Health and Human Services joined with the Department of Development to implement two programs aimed at alleviating lead hazards in local homes. Using a \$1.5 million federal Special Purpose Grants, a lead abatement program was imple-

mented as city agencies designed a lead abatement program protocol, established a lead abatement contractor pool and retained a vendor to test residents for lead. A contractor was also retained to perform lead inspections and write specifications and cost estimates for abatement work. Rehabilitation work to remove lead was performed in seven residential buildings.

Another \$1.5 million Special Purpose Grant was used to create two lead safe houses that will serve as temporary shelter for families who must leave their current residences while lead hazards are abated. The Department of Development served as lead developer for the houses, which will feature a total of seven apartment units.



*Lead exposure screenings help the city identify and abate lead hazards in the community.*



This grant also helped fund other health projects related to lead exposure, including educational programs to inform parents, children and health care providers of the early warning signs of lead exposure and ways to prevent further exposure.

### **Health Programs**

The Department of Health and Human Services maintained a number of other screening, education and prevention programs related to community health concerns in 1996. These included a tuberculosis screening and education program, a Men's Wellness Program that offered prostate screenings and breast and cervical cancer screening initiatives for senior citizens. In addition, more than 2,300 influenza vaccinations were provided to senior citizens while the city achieved a 67 percent age-appropriate immunization coverage rate for children.

To address the scourge of AIDS, education seminars were conducted at churches, housing complexes, colleges and schools to present data on modes of HIV transmission and strong preventive messages. During 1996, 20,000 clients were served by the city-sponsored HIV/AIDS support group for Newark residents and employees. And Newark's Ryan White HIV Program, which is now recognized as a national model, won grants totaling more than \$9 million.

Helping administer the comprehensive services offered in this area was the newly unveiled CHAMP, the Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Management Program. CHAMP is a state-of-the-art database of all Title I services offered by



*Staff at the city's senior centers prepared and served thousands of nutritious meals to the elderly in 1996.*



the city, clients, outside service providers and contracts that allows users real-time on-line data and the ability to update information and services.

Health and Human Services maintained programs for Newark's neediest citizens — the homeless. Health care and social services were supplied through the Homeless Health Care Program, which sent a team of doctors, nurses and social workers to shelters and soup kitchens in the community. To help fund these efforts, the department won a \$5.5 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant.

The nutritional needs of Newark's senior citizens and children were also addressed in 1996. The Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food program provided nutritious food, education and health care for pregnant women, babies and children. Through the Child Care Food Program, more than 700,000 meals were served to the city's children at after-school programs, day care centers and summer youth programs. And thousands of more meals were provided for senior citizens at senior centers and through home delivery.

### ***Newark at Play***

The Department of Health and Human Services sponsored a large menu of recreational activities for all segments of the Newark community in '96. For senior citizens, there was a citywide hat fashion show, balls and parties. For youth, five recreation centers and six city pools offered 160,000 units of activities and services to approximately 25,000 children. During the summer of '96, the city's playgrounds served between 8,000 and 10,000 youths. In the fall, Halloween activities were sponsored in the local recreation centers. And as winter approached, busloads of youth were transported to the Meadowlands Arena for Walt Disney on Ice shows.

The Department sponsored a popular summer concert series that drew large audiences seeking to beat the heat with cool music. This was followed up with sponsorship of the Sixth Annual Newark Jazz Festival, a weeklong celebration of a unique American art form and one of the highlights of the city's cultural events calendar.



*Newark's recreation centers are a popular destination for youth throughout the year.*

# A Year in a Safer City



Newark took impressive strides last year in improving public safety for its nearly 300,000 residents.

The Police Department's aggressive stance in fighting crime led to a decrease in the overall crime rate by 13.7 percent in 1996.

The uniform crime report listed:

- ◆ a 2.9 percent decrease in homicide
- ◆ a 14.6 percent decrease in sexual assault
- ◆ a 23.3 percent decrease in robberies
- ◆ a 6.9 percent decrease in assaults
- ◆ an 18.4 percent decrease in robberies
- ◆ a 15.4 percent decrease in auto theft

In each of Newark's four wards, police have increased the number of arrests made, summonses issued and field interrogations conducted. Special emphasis has been placed on addressing so-called quality of life issues such as low-level narcotics sales, loitering crowds, aggressive panhandling, vandalism and prostitution that, unchecked, foster a climate of lawlessness and lead to more serious crimes.

## More Police, Faster Response

Much of the Police Department's 1996 success came as a result of a large-scale redeployment of officers to street duty. Residents see more police on a daily basis as each precinct now employs about 185 officers, an increase



*Increased police presence and interaction with the community have contributed to the local drop in crime.*

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from 120 the previous year. The increased number of officers in the wards allows precinct commanders to target personnel for special task forces that address pressing neighborhood issues. Special burglary task forces, for example, helped reduce the number of break-ins by 14 percent in the South Ward and 47 percent in the East Ward.

The redeployment was enhanced by an infusion of new graduates from the police academy — a record total of 121 new officers. Another 110 cadets entered the academy for training.

Residents in each ward also saw an improvement in police response time. Queue time, the time between receiving a call and assigning an officer, was cut as a result of a prioritization system implemented by police operators. The

average queue time for a priority seven call — the highest priority level — went from 13 minutes early in the year to under three minutes. Queue time for lower priority calls also declined drastically, as did travel time for officers arriving on the scene.

To further improve service for residents, the Newark Police Department — New Jersey's largest — successfully won \$23 million in grants to be received over a three-year period. They include the Law Enforcement Block Grant of \$2.43 million, COPS Ahead grant of \$2.17 million, COPS MORE 96 grant of \$2.10 million and a Universal Hiring grant of \$16.5 million. The monies will be applied for uses ranging from hiring additional personnel to equipment.

### **Fire Department**

Newark's Fire Department, long touted as one of the premier fire fighting services in the United States, worked hard in 1996 to remain worthy of that designation.

Nineteen ninety-six was a year in which the number of fires recorded in the city continued to decline. Rigorous enforcement of fire codes by the department as well as prevention programs contributed to this decline in which the number of fires in the city has dropped by 33 percent over the past decade. The num-



*Bicycle patrols are one of the newest means of maintaining police presence in city neighborhoods.*

ber of incidents requiring Fire Department response also dropped last year from nearly 18,000 in 1995 to just over 15,000. This caps a six-year trend in which incidents have dropped by 24 percent.

### **Quality Equipment and People**

Newark's 20 engine companies, 10 ladder companies, fireboat and rescue squad responded to calls with the best equipment available, including two new fire engines and a tower ladder truck, whose average age is seven years. Helping to improve the department's response time was a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. Using a \$500,000 grant, CAD hardware was delivered, a CAD training center and training program were established and software was adapted for the system. A local area network connects the system's central unit to individual fire divisions and helps ensure that forces are deployed quickly and smoothly.

Operating all this equipment was the department's finest asset —a quality force of highly trained personnel.

A total of 56 new firefighters were added to the force last year and old and new members alike benefited from training and safety initiatives. Among them were an improved certification program for drivers of large firefighting vehicles, an enhanced incident safety officer program and a firefighter assist and search team for personnel working in structures where visibility is dangerously low.

In an effort to deploy a force that truly represents the community it serves, the department has implemented a comprehensive affirmative action program. In 1995-96, 60 percent of all new firefighters were members of minority groups and the department has increased minority representation by 36 percent.



*The Newark Fire Department carries out its work with modern, well maintained equipment.*

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*Strength training classes help young prospects prepare for the state firefighters examination.*

These gains have come as a result of an active recruitment and outreach program for qualified minority applicants and Newark residents. A full-time affirmative action officer works to identify potential applicants and provide training, including tutoring for the written portion of the state fire exam as well as gymnasium sessions that help recruits build the agility, stamina and upper body strength needed to pass the physical portion.



*Hands-on practice sessions like this one enable firefighters to keep their skills sharp in a variety of situations.*

# A Year In a Cleaner City

**T**

he Department of Neighborhood Services — which includes divisions responsible for Inspections and Enforcement, Parks and Grounds, Property Clearance and Sanitation — maintains a healthier living environment for city residents.

Areas of responsibility include problems such as code violations, dangerous or abandoned buildings, graffiti vandalism, litter removal and illegal dumping.

## Special Initiatives

In 1996, the Department of Neighborhood Services acted decisively to address the problem of illegal trash dumping, which creates serious eyesores, hurts property values and burdens the city with the high cost of cleanups. An aggressive program using video camera surveillance, stakeouts, investigations and a tip hot line was implemented. Over an 18-month period covering the second half of 1995 and all of 1996, 275 illegal dumping arrests were made. More than 100 convictions resulted and bench warrants were issued for additional alleged dumpers.

The city also publicly identified violators in newspaper advertisements as a deterrent to other dumpers. Because a majority of arrested dumpers were found to be from outside Newark, advertisements were placed in local newspaper editions reaching readers in bordering communities.

Another important battle fought by the department in 1996 was against graffiti vandalism. A Graffiti Eradication Team had a big impact in its second year on the job as it removed markings from 765 surfaces during the year, especially in high-profile areas of Newark. As part of the city's "Zero Tolerance Policy," the team worked swiftly in the belief that prompt removal of graffiti denies vandals the recognition that motivates them.



*The Graffiti Eradication Team was instrumental in improving the city's appearance in '96.*

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The Graffiti Eradication Team worked with community organizations to partner on cleanup projects and with businesses to educate them on anti-graffiti strategies. It also reached out to impressionable youth with a message on how graffiti damages their neighborhoods.

Community groups served as partners on projects designed to beautify common areas in the city's wards, such as roadway medians and vacant lots, with flower beds. These projects were often part of large-scale "systematic cleanups" in which the department targeted resources on a block-by-block basis to address problems such as code violations, dangerous or abandoned buildings, illegal dumping sites, heavy litter areas and graffiti. Systematic cleanups also involved interagency cooperation as Neighborhood Services worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to bait for rodents, the Department of Water and Sewer Utilities to clean catch basins and the police and Municipal Court to prosecute absentee landlords of neglected properties.

### **Award-Winning Efforts**

The city's recycling program — already a national leader — was further recognized in 1996 with two major awards. The first was Recycling Excellence Silver Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America that honored outstanding performance for an integrated solid waste management program. Newark also won the Public Service Excellence Award from the Public Employees Roundtable, a coalition representing more than 1 million public workers.

Neighborhood Services also handed in an award-winning effort of a different kind. Although it wasn't formally rec-



*Youth groups were among the community partners enlisted by the Department of Neighborhood Services for a variety of projects.*

ognized with a plaque or certificate, the department performed admirably in clearing 322 miles of city streets when a record 89 inches of snow fell on Newark — including 26 inches in one of the worst blizzards to hit the area in a century. Snow clearance efforts included the implementation of emergency alternate side of the street parking regulations and the development and implementation of a computerized system for monitoring and tracking snow removal crews.

The city's recycling program — already a national leader — was further recognized in 1996 with two major awards.

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## ***A Year of Infrastructure Improvement***

**M**aintaining and upgrading one of the primary engines of Newark's growth — the municipal infrastructure — falls in the hands of the departments of Engineering and Water and Sewer Utilities. Both recorded important accomplishments over the course of the past year.

Engineering's work included several transportation-related projects. The department served as a partner in Connection Newark, a \$1 million signage program funded by the State of New Jersey that is designed to help accommodate the large volume of traffic traveling to the city's growing list of public institutions and cultural sites. Traffic engineers helped inventory sign needs, coordinate sign design and plan placement of colorful road signs on regional highways and local streets pointing travelers to popular destinations in the city's Downtown/Arts District, Ironbound Section and University Heights area.

In other transportation projects, Engineering repaved nearly 12 miles of city streets. The effort also included the installation of handicapped access curb ramps in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and installation of new storm sewer grates that prevent floatable debris from reaching the Passaic River.

Modern technology played a role in the department's work last year. The city's Urban Traffic Control System, a computerized system for synchronizing traffic flow, was expanded to include additional signal locations leading into the city's central business district. Updates were made to the Geographic Information System, a mapping system featuring all vital components of the city's



*Newark's transportation infrastructure was improved through the annual roadway repaving program.*



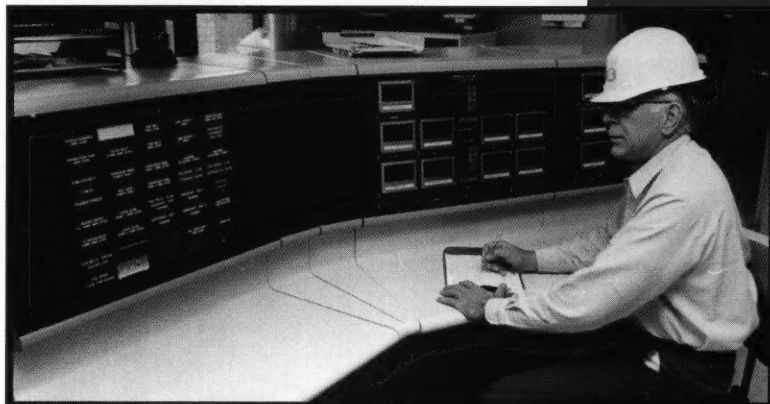
infrastructure. And information technology was applied to improve the Uniform Construction Code permitting process.

## **Water and Sewer Utilities**

The Department of Water and Sewer Utilities oversees the largest publicly operated water and sewer systems in the state, managing over \$2.2 billion in assets, nine dams and six storage reservoirs at the Pequannock Watershed, a 40 percent ownership stake of the Wanaque Water Supply System, and a water treatment plant that produces 80 million gallons of potable water per day.

Its duties in 1996 included maintaining:

- ◆ 800 miles of aqueduct lines to the city
- ◆ over 500 miles of mains and pipelines within the city
- ◆ 410 miles of sewer collection lines
- ◆ approximately 5,000 fire hydrants
- ◆ 9,000 isolation gate valves
- ◆ four water pumping stations



The departments of Water and Sewer Utilities and Engineering are currently involved in one of the largest infrastructure projects in the city's history — upgrading Newark's century-old sewer system. A federal grant of \$40 million and \$40 million in matching city funds are being applied to the multiyear project. Fifteen sewer rehabilitation projects worth \$5.5 million were completed in 1996 while planning was completed for another 14 projects worth \$6 million to be completed in 1997.

The department's 1996 water improvement program featured a \$1.9 million rehab of the Oak Ridge Dam at the Pequannock Watershed and the rehabilitation of the Charlotteburg Dam at a cost of \$142,000.

Water usage was also better monitored as meters were installed at Port Newark and work to install new industrial and residential meters was more than 90 percent complete.

*Sophisticated equipment controls the purification process at the city's ultra-modern water treatment plant.*



# **City of Newark**

Sharpe James, Mayor

## **Municipal Council**

Donald Bradley, *Council President &  
Councilman, South Ward*

George Branch, *Central Ward*

Anthony Carrino, *North Ward*

Gayle Chaneyfield, *At-Large*

Mildred Crump, *At-Large*

Henry Martinez, *East Ward*

Luis Quintana, *At-Large*

Ronald L. Rice, *West Ward*

Donald Tucker, *At-Large*

Glenn A. Grant, *Business Administrator*

For more information on Newark City Government, the mayor and municipal council, city services and upcoming events, visit Newark on the World Wide Web at [www.newarknj.org](http://www.newarknj.org).



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